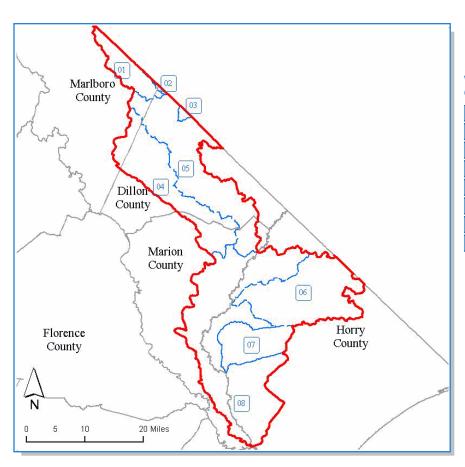
An Assessment of the Little Pee Dee Subbasin

Hydrologic Unit Code (8 Digit): 03040204





WATERSHED (10-digit HUC)

(E.g., 01 = 0304020401)

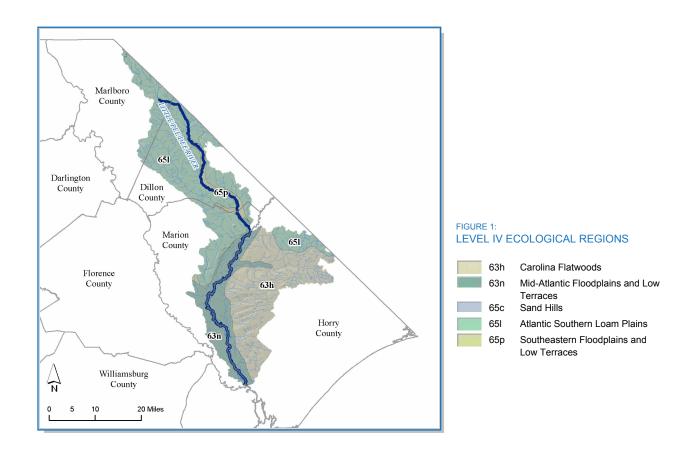
- Upper Little Pee Dee River
- 02 Leith Creek
- 03 Shoe Heel Creek
- 04 Buck Swamp
- 05 Middle Little Pee Dee River
 - Lake Swamp-Little Pee Dee River
- D7 Brunson Swamp
- 8 Lower Little Pee Dee River



Watershed Description

The Little Pee Dee River starts off as a small, meandering blackwater river that runs southeast from the eastern part of Marlboro County. Near Nichols, SC, the Little Pee Dee is joined by the larger River which runs southwest from North Carolina but continues on as the Little Pee Dee. The Little Pee Dee runs into the Great Pee Dee River near the coast near Yauhannah, SC, about 20 miles upstream from where the Great Pee Dee enters Winyah Bay. The subbasin drains 974 square miles (623,000 ac) in South Carolina. The Little Pee Dee is one of the best remaining examples of a Coastal Plain blackwater river in South Carolina.

The upper reaches of the river's subbasin covers the fertile Atlantic Southern Loam Plains (65l) and, in the lower reaches, the predominant ecoregions are the Mid-Atlantic Floodplains (63n) and the Carolina Flatwoods (63h) (Figure 1). Carolina Bays are a common feature in this subbasin.



Land Use/Land Cover

This is a rural watershed with small (McColl, Dillon, Marion) urban centers (Figure 2). The majority of the farmland in the subbasin is devoted to rowcrops such as wheat, cotton, soybeans, corn and tobacco.(Table 2).

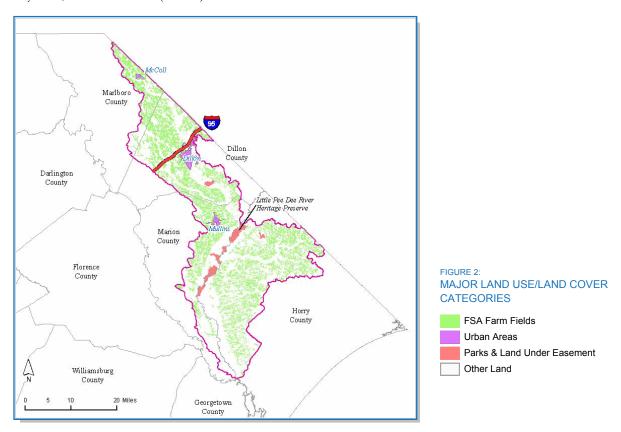


Table 1: MAJOR LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORIES

MAJOR LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORIES	Acres	% of Watershed
Watershed (Total)	623,603	-
Urban Area	9,076	1%
Parks/Land Under Easement (not NRCS)	11,976	2%
Farm Service Agency Designated Farm Fields	194,214	31%

Table 2:

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE: FSA ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED FARM FIELD USE FROM THE 2002 AG CENSUS (NASS Whole County Data Used. Cropland includes: Field Crops, Orchards, and Specialty Crops.)

County	FSA Fields (Acres)	% Pasture (Estimated)	% Cropland (Estimated)	% Hayland (Estimated)
Dillon	61,196	2%	96%	2%
Horry	76,775	9%	87%	4%
Marion	34,126	6%	89%	5%
Marlboro	22,118	6%	91%	3%

Summary of Resource Concerns

The following is a summary of resource concerns for the watershed. Each resource concern has a more detailed analysis provided in its corresponding section.

Soils

Land capability limitations are dominated by wetness in this subbasin and are typical of an area within the Coastal Flatwoods. Hydric soils or partially hydric soils comprise 63% of the subbasin and are the key resource concerns.

Water Quantity

Awaiting SCDNR's 2007 state water assessment.

Water Quality

Fecal coliform and dissolved oxygen.

Plant Condition

Field crops that include cotton, tobacco, corn and wheat for grain and soybeans are prominent.

Fish, Wildlife and Native Plants

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: Biologists have identified habitat protection as one of the most important actions to ensure the protection of South Carolina priority species. Loss and fragmentation of habitat have been identified as a major threat to many of the species listed as threatened and endangered in South Carolina.

Domestic Animals

The subbasin has the highest live weight of hogs and pigs in the state.

Economic and Social Factors

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Progress on Conservation

Table 3:

A SUMMARY OF NRCS APPLIED CONSERVATION TREATMENTS (ACRES)

(See Appendix for NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories.) (Applied practice data is reported on a fiscal year basis commencing on October 1st)

Conservation Treatments	2004	2005	2006	Total
Buffers and Filter Strips	224	235	70	529
Conservation Tillage	3,824	-	715	4,539
Erosion Control	3,140	2,202	737	6,079
Irrigation Water Management	-	-	6	6
Nutrient Management	2,870	1,281	1,524	5,675
Pest Management	1,560	855	160	2,575
Prescribed Grazing	64	36	6	106
Trees and Shrubs	767	61	292	1,120
Wetlands	-	1,657	101	1,758
Wildlife Habitat	296	1,492	1,904	3,692

Table 4:

LANDS REMOVED FROM PRODUCTION BY FARM BILL PROGRAMS (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN)

County	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 1986 - 2005	Grassland Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Farmland & Ranch Protection Program (ac) 2005	Wetland Reserve Program (ac) 2005
Dillon	2,998	31,665	-	57	410
Horry	7,060	51,256	-	752	1,582
Marion	1,727	14,178	-	1,074	2,844
Marlboro	4,457	155,878	-	-	350

Table 5

APPROVED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)

(See SCDHEC 2007 (a) in Reference Section.) - SCDHEC Contact: Matt Carswell - (803) 898-3609

TMDL Document	Number of Stations	Parameter of Concern	Status	WQMS ID Standard Attained
Pee Dee Basin	4	Fecal Coliform	Completed & Approved	PD-352
Upper Little Pee Dee	1	Fecal Coliform	Approved & Implementing	-

Table 6:

OTHER PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND PROJECTS IN THE WATERSHED

Organization	Description	Contact	Telephone
SCDNR	Little Pee Dee Scenic River Project	Bill Marshall	803-734-9096
SCDNR	Little Pee Dee Scenic River Project of Dillon County	John Alford	843-774-9577
NRCS	Latta Watershed Project	Stephen Henry	803-765-5350
SCDHEC	Watershed Water Quality Assessment: Pee Dee River Basin (2000)	Roger Hall	803-898-4142
SCDNR	Draft Little Pee Dee River Plan	Bill Marshall	803-734-9096

Other Watershed Considerations

Little Pee Dee Scenic River

Fourteen miles of the Little Pee Dee River from Highway 378 to the confluence with the Great Pee Dee River is designated as a State Scenic River. An additional 64 miles of the river extending upstream from Highway 378 were determined eligible for scenic river status in 1997 but have not yet been formerly designated. (Source SCDNR).

Little Pee Dee River of Dillon County

The Little Pee Dee in Dillon County is a designated Scenic River. This section of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River extends 48-miles through Dillon County from the Marlboro County line above Parish Mill Bridge on State Road 363 to the confluence with Buck Swamp at the Marion County line.

Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve

This 9,000-acre preserve is characterized by floodplain forests and oxbow lakes throughout its four tracts

Soils

A majority (69%) of land in this Coastal Plain subbasin has limitations due to wetness (Table 7). Most of the wetness is associated with hydric soils along streams and partially hydric soils on uplands in the subbasin (Figure 5, Table 10). Droughtiness is a concern in about 17% of the area (Table 7) and occurs mostly in sandy soils in the upper and middle parts of the subbasin in Dillon and Marlboro counties (Figure 1). Low soil organic matter in these sandy soils is a soil health concern. Erosion is not a resource concern in this subbasin with 94% of the land classified as not highly erodible (Figure 4, Table 9). Almost 70% of the land in the Little Pee Dee subbasin is either prime farmland (33%) or statewide important farmland (36%) and occurs throughout the subbasin on upland areas (Figure 3, Table 8).

Table 7: LAND CAPABILITY CLASSES (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Percentages are based on the whole watershed (623,603 ac).

Land Capability Class 1	Acres	Percent
1 - Slight limitations	47,283	8%

% Land by Subclass Limitation

	Erosi	on (e)	Wetne	ess(w)	Drough	tiness (s)
Land Capability Classes 2-8	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
2 - Moderate limitations	32,679	5%	122,779	20%	49,852	8%
3 - Severe limitations	1,393	0%	146,874	24%	29,798	5%
4 - Very severe limitations	61	0%	45,322	7%	19,091	3%
5 - No erosion hazard, but other limitations	-	-	12,511	2%	-	-
6 - Severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest	325	0%	32,143	5%	3,121	1%
7 - Very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing; forest, wildlife habitat	-	-	65,893	11%	-	-
8 - Miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation,	-	-	606	0%	-	-

Prime Farmland

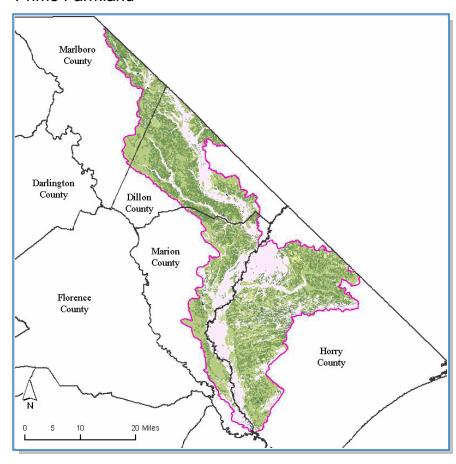


FIGURE 3: PRIME FARMLAND (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Table 8: PRIME FARMLAND

Prime Farmland Categories	Acres	Percent of Land
All areas are prime farmland	189,608	30%
Farmland of statewide importance	225,988	36%
Not prime farmland	191,463	31%
Prime farmland if drained	16,215	3%
Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated and drained	0	0%
Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	0	0%

Highly Erodible Land

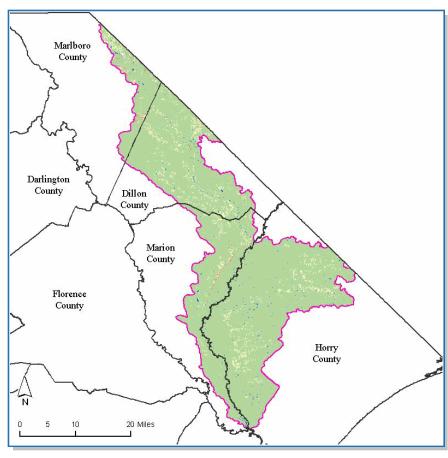


FIGURE 4: HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Table 9: HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

Highly Erodible Land Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
Highly erodible land	2,200	0%
Not highly erodible land	587,120	94%
Potentially highly erodible land	29,047	5%

Hydric Soils

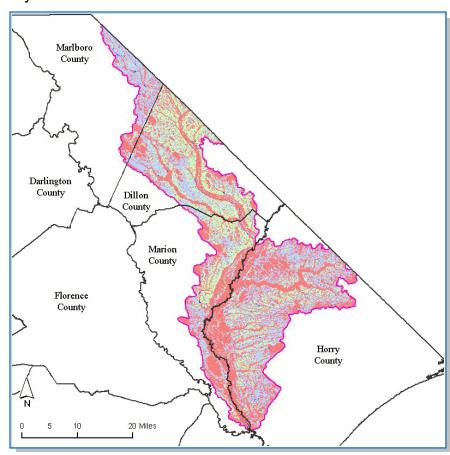


FIGURE 5: HYDRIC SOILS (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Table 10: HYDRIC SOILS

Hydric Soils Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
All Hydric	284,266	46%
Not Hydric	135,419	22%
Partially Hydric	203,590	33%

Water Quantity

Narrative awaiting SCDNR's new state water assessment.

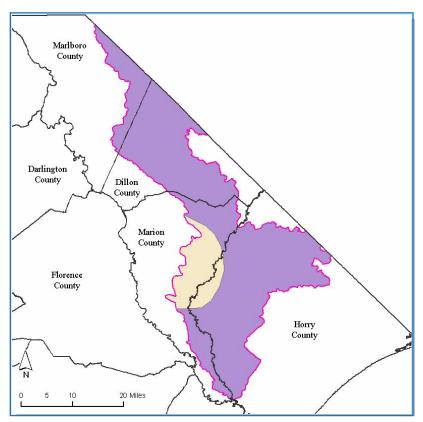


FIGURE 6: WATERSHED RELATIVE TO CAPACITY USE AREAS, NOTICE OF INTENT AREAS, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION

Table 11:
CAPACITY USE, NOTICE OF INTENT, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION AREA IN WATERSHED (See SCDHEC 2007 [c] and SCDNR 2004 in Refrerences Section.)

Area	Percent of Watershed
% Watershed in Cone of Depression and Capacity Use (CU) Area	12%
% Watershed in SCDHEC Capacity Use (CU) Area	88%
% Watershed in SCDHEC Notice of Intent (NOI) Area	0%

Water Quantity Cont.

Table 12: INDICATORS OF IRRIGATION WATER USAGE (WHOLE COUNTY DATA ARE USED) (See NASS 2002 and SCDNR 2004 in References Section)

County	Total Irrigated Water Used MGD	Total NASS Cropland (ac)	Cropland Under Irrigation (ac)	Percent Cropland Under Irrigation	Water Use Gal/Ac/Day for Irrigated Land
Dillon	1.80	90,048	1,928	2.1	934
Horry	3.14	101,336	741	0.7	4,238
Marion	1.90	57,783	575	1.0	3,304
Marlboro	2.92	74,405	2,136	2.9	1,367

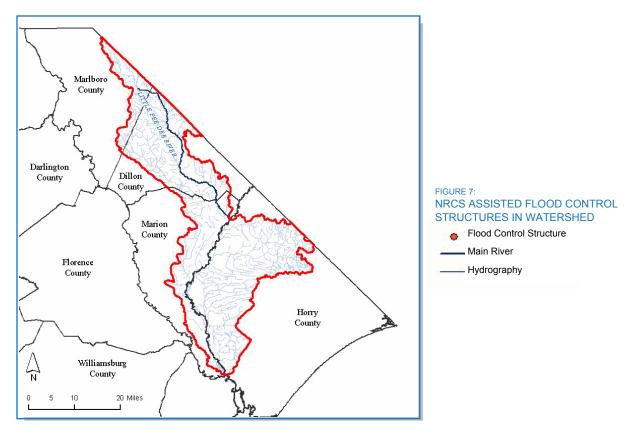


Table 13: NRCS IMPLEMENTED FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES

Number of Structures	Maximum Storage	Nu	umber of Stru	ıctures by Hazar	d Class
(in Watershed)	(AcFt)	High	Low	Significant	Unclassified
0	-	0	0	0	0

Water Quality

Recreational Use Standard

The number of surface water quality impairments is shown in Table 15 resulting in a "303(d)" listing of that Water Quality Monitoring Site (WQMS). Table 5 indicates what progress has been made to address surface water quality through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Once a TMDL plan is approved, the WQMS is removed from the 303(d) list even though the standard may not have been attained. Note that standards for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a only exist for lakes; therefore, no stream in the state can be listed for any of these three parameters.

The fecal coliform concern will be addressed through ongoing TMDLs (Table 5, Table 15).

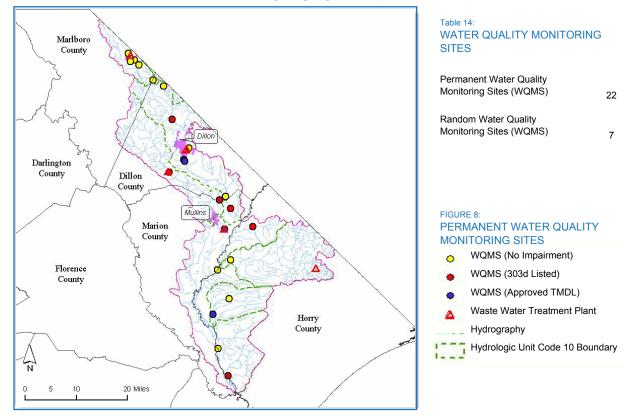


Table 15:
NUMBER OF MONITORING SITES SHOWING SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPAIRMENTS
(See SCDHEC 2006 in References for the state 303(d) list.)

Fish Tissue Standard

Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Fecal Coliform	3	Mercury	15	Fecal Coliform	NA
		PCB's	0		
Aquatic Life Use S	Standard				
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Biological	0	Dissolved Oxygen	6	Total Phosphorus	0
Chlorophyll A	0	Ammonia Nitrogen	0	pН	0
Chromium	0	Nickel	0	Turbidity	0
Copper	1	Total Nitrogen	0	Zinc	0

Shellfish Harvest Standard

Plant Condition

Plants of Economic Importance

Plants of economic importance are shown in Table 16. The crops shown in this table are from NASS data where the top five crops, by acres, in each county are displayed. The timber statistics (see Clemson Extension Forest Services 2003 in References) indicate the relative importance of the timber industry within the state and the importance of the timber industry compared to agriculture within the county.

The most prominent crops in the subbasin include cotton, tobacco, corn and wheat for grain and soybeans.

Native Plant Species

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: in the river bottoms on the coastal plains, one frequently finds hardwood-dominated woodlands with moist soils that are usually associated with major river floodplains and creeks. Characteristic trees include: sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*).

The Cypress-tupelo swamp subtype occurs on lower elevation sites as seasonally flooded swamps. It is usually transected by tannic-acid rivers and creeks and contains oxbow lakes and pools. Dominant trees are bald cypress (*Taxodium distichium*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), swamp gum (*Nyssa biflora*), Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), water elm (*Planera aquatica*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*).

Another common feature in this subbasin is the Carolina Bay. Carolina bays are isolated wetlands in natural shallow depressions that are largely fed by rain and shallow groundwater. These bays have an elliptical shape and generally a northwest to southeast orientation. Carolina bays vary but tend to host many different plant and animal species.

Table 16:
WHOLE COUNTY DATA OF PLANTS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN SUBBASIN
(See: USDA NASS 2002 & Clemson University Forest Extension Services 2003 in References section)

Plant
All Cotton
All Wheat for grain
Corn for grain
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greencho Soybeans
Tobacco

Timber, Top 10 Rank in SC Timber Revenues Exceed Ag.

Revenues

Counties

Marion, Marlboro, Dillon Dillon, Horry, Marlboro, Marion Horry, Marion, Dillon, Marlboro

Horry, Marlboro

Marion, Marlboro, Horry, Dillon Horry, Marion, Dillon Horry, Marion Marion

Table 17: FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES IN WATERSHED (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common NameLatin NameStatusCanby's dropwortOxypolis canbyiiEndangeredChaff-seedSchwalbea americanaEndangeredPondberryLindera melissifoliaEndangeredSea-beach amaranthAmaranthus pumilusThreatened

Fish and Wildlife

For additional information, the SC, Department of Natural Resources has completed a "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (Source: SC,DNR 2005 in References section).

In 2005, mercury advisories were issued for 57 water bodies in South Carolina. Higher concentrations of mercury in fish tissue tend to occur in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina with relatively lower concentrations, and therefore fewer advisories, in the Piedmont. For more details on fish advisories, please refer to the SCDHEC fish advisory website at: http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/fish/

Table 18:
FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN WATERSHED (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Kirtland's Warbler	Dendroica kirtlandii	Endangered
Wood stork	Mycteria americana	Endangered
Red-cockaded woodpecker	Picoides borealis	Endangered

Table 19:
FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AQUATIC SPECIES IN WATERSHED (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Shortnose sturgeon	Acipenser brevirostrum	Endangered

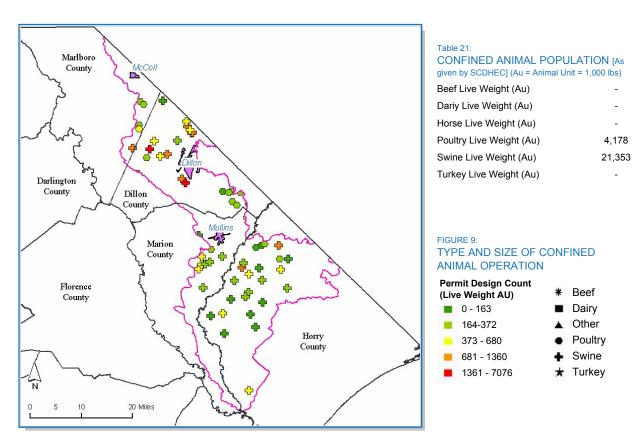
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL FACTORS

Domestic Animals

Grazing livestock populations are modest. The subbasin has the highest live weight of hogs and pigs in the state; there are some poultry (broiler) operations. In Marion county, some of the confined operation have closed and are not currently in operation, although their permits have not yet expired.

Table 20:
WHOLE COUNTY GRAZING ANIMAL POPULATION DATA FROM 2002 AG. CENSUS (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

		Grazing/Forage	County Rank in
County	Cows/Calves	(ac)	State
Dillon	1,526	1,373	43
Horry	8,425	8,996	23
Marion	5,243	3,628	26
Marlboro	3,302	4,210	(D)



^{*} Weighted averages are estimated based on agricultural land use area.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL FACTORS

The number of full-time farmers is *higher* than the state average of 47% and farm sizes are *larger* than the state average of 197 ac (Table 22); both parameters suggest *above* average levels of participation in conservation programs. The subbasin is almost unique in that farm sizes and amount of cropland acres did not change significantly between 1997 and 2002; this is compared to average farm size reductions 13% and average cropland losses of 8% across the state.



The relative importance of crop and livestock commodity groups in the watershed is shown in Tables 24 and 25; a *qualitative* indication of the relative importance of timber is provided on Table 16.

For more economic and farm information from the 2002 Agricultural Census, more detailed reports for all South Carolina counties can be found at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/sc/index.htm

Table 22: 2002 FARM CENSUS DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (SC average farm size = 197 ac)

	Total Number of	% Full Time	% Farms	Average Farm
County	Farms	Farmers	> 180 (ac)	Size (ac)
Dillon	197	70%	50%	570
Horry	988	54%	24%	191
Marion	213	60%	36%	438
Marlboro	222	50%	48%	518
Weighted Avg*	521	60%	37%	395

Table 23: 2002 FARM CENSUS ECONOMIC DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (Results in \$1,000)

County	Market Value of Ag Products Sold	Market Value of Crops Sold	Market Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products	Farms with sales < \$10,000
Dillon	69,247	22,793	46,454	81
Horry	54,451	38,571	15,880	677
Marion	24,157	16,352	7,804	141
Marlboro	22,518	10,853	11,665	146
Weighted Avg*	50,765	26,859	23,905	338



Table 24:

VALUE OF CROP COMMODITY GROUPS - COUNTY RANK IN STATE (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of All Crops	Grains & Oilseeds	Tobacco	All Cotton	Vegetables & Melons	Fruits, Nuts, & Berries	Nursery, Etc.	Christmas Trees & Woody Crops	Hay & other Crops
Dillon	9	3	4	2	(D)	(D)	42	-	42
Horry	3	5	1	(D)	11	14	25	(D)	26
Marion	13	13	3	12	31	38	40	-	36
Marlboro	19	(D)	11	1	39	35	(D)	-	45

REFERENCES

Table 25: VALUE OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMODITY GROUPS - RANK IN STATE (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

	Value of						
County	Livestock, poultry	Poultry, Eggs	Cattle & Calves	Milk & Dairy	Hogs & Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Horses, etc.
Dillon	7	12	43	-	1	(D)	(D)
Horry	19	24	23	(D)	2	10	11
Marion	26	23	26	-	12	(D)	(D)
Marlboro	22	21	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	41

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APPENDIX

Level III Common Resource Area (Ecological Region) Descriptions

Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain (63)

The Middle Atlantic Coastal consists of low elevation, flat plains, with many swamps, marshes, and estuaries. Forest cover in the region, once dominated by longleaf pine in the Carolinas, is now mostly loblolly and some shortleaf pine, with patches of oak, gum, and cypress near major streams. Pine plantations for pulpwood and lumber are typical, with some areas of cropland. In South Carolina, the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain is divided into three level IV ecoregions Carolinian Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes (63g), Carolina Flatwoods (63h), Mid-Atlantic Floodplains and Low Terraces (63n).

Southeastern Plains (65)

The Southeastern Plains are irregular with broad interstream areas have a mosaic of cropland, pasture, woodland, and forest. In the past centuries, human activities (logging, agriculture and fire suppression) removed almost all of the longleaf pine forests. Elevations and relief are greater than in the Southern Coastal Plain (75), but generally less than in much of the Piedmont (45). The ecoregion has been divided into three level IV ecoregions within South Carolina: Sand Hills (65c), Atlantic Southern Loam Plains (65l), and Southeastern Floodplains and Low Terraces (65p). Note: The Atlantic Southern Loam Plains (65l) is a major agricultural zone, with deep, well-drained soils, and is characterized by high percentages of cropland.

NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories in Table 3

Report Category	Practice Codes
Buffer and Filter Strips	332, 391, 393, 412

Conservation Tillage 324, 329, 329A, 329B, 344, 484 Erosion Control 327, 328, 330, 340, 342, 561, 585, 586

Irrigation Water Management441, 449Nutrient Management590Pest Management595Prescribed Grazing528, 528A

Trees and Shrubs 490, 612, 655, 656, 66

Wetlands 657, 658, 659 Wildlife Habitat 644, 645

APPENDIX

Hydrologic Unit Numbering System

In 2005, the NRCS in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the U.S. Forest Service updated the South Carolina part of the USGS standard hydrologic unit map series. The report, "Development of a 10- and 12- Digit Hydrologic Unit Code Numbering System for South Carolina, 2005", describes and defines those efforts. The following is from the Abstract contained in that report: "A hydrologic unit map showing the subbasins, watersheds, and subwatersheds of South Carolina was developed to represent 8-, 10-, and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes, respectively. The 10- and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes replace the 11- and 14-digit hydrologic unit codes developed in a previous investigation. Additionally, substantial changes were made to the 8-digit subbasins in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. These modifications include the creation of four new subbasins and the renumbering of existing subbasins." The report may be obtained at

http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/HUC_report.pdf.
See Table 2 in the report for a cross-reference of old to new 8-digit HUC.

This subbasin profile uses the new HUC 8 numbering system with its modified and newly created subbasins. The NRCS reports implemented practices by 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code. All NRCS reported Conservation Practices were reported using the older numbering system. 2005 and 2006 data were converted to the new HUC 8 numbering system through the Latitude and Longitude data reported with the applied practice. The use of these differing numbering systems has resulted in some NRCS implemented practices being credited in this report to an 8-digit HUC as reported by the NRCS but not correctly credited in the new numbering system. Likewise, the newly created 8-digit HUC will not be credited with the 2004 applied practices.